

CONFIDENTIAL

16 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DULLES

SUBJECT : Meeting with Committee of the Federal City Council at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 January.

1. According to Mr. Frank J. Luchs of Shannon & Luchs, who is Treasurer of the Federal City Council, the special committee to meet with you on Wednesday, 18 January, at the Alibi Club will be composed of the following:

Samuel E. Neel - Chairman

Francis G. Addison, Jr., Chairman of the
Federal City Council

Philip L. Graham, Washington Post

Benjamin M. McKelway, Washington Star

John T. O'Rourke, Washington Daily News

(possibly others may be present)

2. The Council and this committee are under the impression that the District of Columbia is and always has been your first preference. In all probability their objective will be to get you to say this in one form or another so that they may pull out all the stops to get this restriction lifted. They believe that the National Security Council made the decision based upon the recommendations of the Office of Defense Mobilization. Although I doubt that he is correct, Mr. Luchs believes that the whole question would be dropped if the committee were told that the District was not our preference and that by persisting in an attempt to change this it would muddy the waters and do us more harm than good.

3. Of course you have to play the entire performance by ear, but I would suggest that if possible you take the following line:

a. We want and need a building badly. We need it now
and cannot stand serious delay.

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b. The District certainly would have been entirely satisfactory to us. However, even though remarks made by us may have been interpreted as expressing a preference for the District, such is not actually the case. We had not come to any definite conclusion in this regard at the time it was decided as a matter of Administration policy, indorsed by the Congress, that we not locate in the District of Columbia.

c. While we have not made a detailed comparison of Langley with sites in the District, it is probable that we would have chosen Langley anyway.

d. It is highly undesirable that we revive the District problem at this late date in view of the serious delay and other ramifications involved, such as:

(1) If we do not go to Langley the whole project will be delayed at least one year.

(2) Revival of D. C. interest will automatically revive Maryland interest, and the Maryland/Virginia/D. C. hassle will start all over again.

(3) The Heurich Brewery property is probably the most suitable site in the District. (The Soldiers' Home and National Training School for Boys locations would be unacceptable because of the traffic situation.)

(4) Acquiring the Heurich Brewery property would necessitate the amendment of basic legislation and an additional appropriation of from \$6,000,000 to \$10,000,000. Even if the Administration changed its position with regard to locating in the District, it is doubtful that the Congress would support the additional appropriation.

e. All things considered, at this late date a concerted effort on the part of the Federal City Council to have us locate in the District would hurt us. (Point out that the District would not suffer if we located at Langley. Personnel residences would not change; therefore, payroll would not change.)

f. Express our hope that the Council could see fit to support the Langley location, and, as a minimum, remain neutral.

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2. In view of the fact that the editors of the three Washington newspapers are all on this committee, suggest that you might want to take Stanley Grogan, as well as Norman Paul, with you to this meeting, unless you feel that do do so would be too big a delegation.

3. I am attaching herewith a brief analysis of the three sites in the District which Mr. Luchs has told me the committee will propose for our consideration.

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L. K. WHITE

1 Att: Memo dtd 13 Jan 56 to DD/S
thru D/Log fr C/BPS, subj:
"District of Columbia Sites."

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

no attachment

NOTE: Mr. Dulles returned this to Colonel White
when they met at the Alibi Club at 5:00
p.m. on 18 January with representatives of
the Federal City Council.

Laq